

~~SECRET~~OLL/LD  
INCOMING

/ /

IMMEDIATE

FRP: ,2, , ,5, , ,8

STATE

25X1



OLC #  
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TOR: 280012Z FEB 84

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OO RUEAIIB  
ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH  
UTSO471  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUEHDM #1452 0581815  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH ZZK  
O 271815Z FEB 84 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO RUEHBL/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACI IMMEDIATE 2331  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 6467  
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 6776  
RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE 7628  
RUEHRM/USELO RIYADH IMMEDIATE 3296  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 9594  
BT  
S E C R E T DAMASCUS 01452

25X1

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PINS, LE, SY, SA, US  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR NEUMANN'S CONVERSATION WITH SYRIAN  
-- FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

25X1

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING HIS MEETING WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR NEUMANN FEBRUARY 27, KHADDAM MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST:

3. GEMAYEL AS PRESIDENT: AS HE HAD TO CODEL FOWLER, KHADDAM IMPLIED GEMAYEL HAS ONE LAST CHANCE; IF HE "BURIES" MAY 17 WITH AN APPROPRIATE "FUNERAL SERVICE" ("QUIET CREMATION" IS INSUFFICIENT AS WOULD "LEAD TO PROBLEMS FOR THE HEIRS"), THEN WAY WOULD BE PAVED FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WHICH SARG WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ADVANCE. CHOICE IS GEMAYEL'S (AND HE CAN RPT CAN ACT EVEN AGAINST HIS FATHER'S WISHES): TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE LEBANESE OR OF THE PHALANGE. IN SYRIA, "WE PREFER GEMAYEL" (TO OTHER CANDIDATES) BECAUSE FOR 15 YEARS HE HAS BEEN "OUR FRIEND", MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH SARG EVEN WHEN BASHIR AND SARG WERE AT ODDS.

4. SAUDI MEDIATION: KHADDAM EVADED OFFERING A SITREP ON THE SAUDI EFFORTS, COMMENTING ONLY THAT SITUATION IS IN FLUX AND VERY COMPLICATED, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF US BIG STICK POLICY.

5. USG ROLE: AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD CAME TO DAMASCUS "ASTRIDE A CANNON", PRECEDED BY US NAVAL SHELLING, "WHICH IS WHY HIS NEGOTIATIONS BECAME DIFFICULT." SYRIA WANTS IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH ARE ALSO IN US INTEREST. IDEALLY, USG SHOULD NOW HELP GEMAYEL ABROGATE MAY 17, URGE ALL LEBANESE TO RECONCILIATION, PRESS ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ON BASIS UNSC RESOLUTIONS, AND ABJURE THE "BIG STICK POLICY".

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**SECRET**

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6. FULLER MEMCON BY SEPTEL.

7. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. RUGH  
END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

**SECRET**